

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims, as follow:

1. (Currently Amended): A tool for preparing vertebral bodies for an implant comprising: a cutter having,
a forked end having a first tine and a second tine, wherein said first and said second tines both having an upper surface and a lower surface, and both having an inner side and an outer side, wherein the inner side extends between the upper surface and the lower surface, and the outer side extends between the upper surface and the lower surface,
a first cutting blade extending from each of the inner side of said first tine and substantially perpendicular to the upper surface and from the inner side of said second tine[[s]] and substantially perpendicular to the upper surface and extending in a first direction from said first and said second tines; wherein the first cutting blade is adapted to cut a groove in a first vertebral body in the first direction, and a second cutting blade extending from each of the [[an]] outer side of said first tine and substantially perpendicular to the lower surface and from the outer side of said second tine[[s]] and substantially perpendicular to the lower surface and extending in a second direction from said first and said second tines; wherein the second cutting blade is adapted to cut a groove in a second vertebral body in the second direction; wherein the second direction being opposite from the first direction.